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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report responds to the request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a report to be submitted to it at its forty-fourth session on the further future engagement of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The report notes that entities of the United Nations system have increasingly designed and implemented their activities in support of NEPAD in an integrated, rather than discrete, manner, linking their work at the country level with those at the subregional and regional levels.

The report details the individual and collective activities undertaken by the entities of the United Nations system and describes some of their recent efforts at resource mobilization for NEPAD priorities, as well as some of the challenges and constraints faced by the United Nations system in supporting the Partnership.

The United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for NEPAD. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the continued support of the United Nations system for NEPAD: the United Nations system should use the existing coordination mechanisms at the global; regional and country levels to strengthen policy coherence in support of NEPAD; the entities should further deepen

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their collaboration to achieve operational coherence of their various programmes in support of NEPAD; and additional resources should be made available to the system to better support the Partnership. Progress on all these areas would be essential as the implementation of NEPAD moves forward.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-third session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that, in order for it to continue monitoring work in progress in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-fourth session on the further future engagement of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD.[1] The present report responds to the request of the Committee, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/268 of 23 December 2003.

2. Since the report on the future engagement of the United Nations system with the New Partnership for Africa's Development[2] was submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session, the nature and scope of assistance extended by the United Nations system in support of NEPAD has become broader and deeper. The support provided by individual entities of the United Nations system has been undertaken in response to requests from the Member States, the NEPAD secretariat, the Commission of the African Union and the regional economic communities. Depending on the nature of the support required, entities of the United Nations system have acted individually in some instances and worked collaboratively in others. Such assistance has encompassed technical assistance, resource mobilization, advocacy work and capacity-building.

3. As indicated in the above-mentioned report, the regional consultation meeting of United Nations agencies working in Africa, convened by the Economic Commission for Africa, is the mechanism for cooperation and coordination among entities of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD at the regional level. Indeed, those entities have increasingly designed and implemented their activities in support of the Partnership in an integrated, rather than discrete, manner, linking their work at the country level with those at the subregional and regional levels. This makes the regional consultation mechanism a particularly important vehicle for fostering programme coherence. The present report highlights United Nations system support for NEPAD since the fifth regional consultative meeting, held in May 2003. In so doing, it details the individual and collective activities undertaken by the entities of the United Nations system and describes some of their recent efforts at resource mobilization for NEPAD priorities, as well as some of the challenges and constraints faced by the United Nations system in supporting the Partnership.

II. Role of the United Nations system as mandated by the General Assembly

4. The General Assembly provides the guidance on the actions that the United Nations system should undertake to support NEPAD, through its resolutions on the Partnership. That guidance, in turn, sets the framework for the monitoring role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system to align its activities with the priorities of NEPAD; enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development; foster a coherent response, including organizing their activities around thematic clusters at the

regional level and working in close collaboration with bilateral donors; strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms at the national level as a means of enhancing their support for African countries in the implementation of NEPAD; work closely with the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations to ensure the implementation of the Partnership; continue to support the efforts of African countries to build human and institutional capacity and mobilization of financial resources for Africa's development; and simplify and harmonize the planning, programming, reporting and disbursement procedures of the United Nations system and for the multilateral institutions to ensure that their support was compatible with NEPAD.

5. In resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly reaffirmed and updated the guidance on these issues. It noted that the entities of the United Nations system had been actively using the regional consultations mechanism as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination at the regional level and encouraged them to intensify their efforts in developing and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD at the regional level; requested the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the secretariat of NEPAD and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the Partnership; and welcomed the cooperation and support granted by the United Nations to the African regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and conflict management.

III. Response of the United Nations system

6. United Nations system support for NEPAD has been organized around thematic clusters that broadly correspond to the priorities of the Partnership. There are now six such clusters, namely: infrastructure development; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; human resources development, employment and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); and science and technology, the latest to be established. In order to provide a comprehensive picture of the individual and collective effort by the entities of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD in the past year, the present report draws on the outcome of the recent meetings of the clusters, where they have been held, and the inputs received from individual United Nations entities, as at the end of March 2004.

A. Actions taken in the thematic clusters

1. Infrastructure development

7. The World Bank has collaborated with the African Development Bank and other partners in the preparation of the NEPAD Short-term Action Plan for Infrastructure Development. As part of its regional programme pipeline of US$ 200 to 300 million annually, the Bank is actively involved in project preparation or financing for at least half of the "top 20" prioritized projects under the Plan. The Bank is supporting the Southern Africa Gas Project and has funded the Western Africa Power Pool and the first stage of the Southern Africa Power Pool — these being key components of the NEPAD energy sector plan.

8. This cluster, for which the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is the convenor, deals with issues of water and sanitation; energy; transport; and information and communication technologies.

9. The sub-cluster on water and sanitation organized a Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water in Addis Ababa, from 8 to 13 December 2003. Among the issues discussed were: the role of Africa's water resources in economic, social and environmental development and the concept of the Integrated Water Resources Management; and financing water sector development in Africa, possibly from savings realized under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative; national budgetary allocations (5 per cent), private sector; traditional communal resources and bilateral and multilateral partners. Major achievements of the Conference are embodied in the overall commitment by the African Ministers' Council on Water to launch the following initiatives: African-European Union Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation; African Water Facility, to be hosted by the African Development Bank but under the policy direction of the African Ministers' Council on Water; the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative of the African Development Bank; and the Water for African Cities programme (phase II), as well as support for the implementation of the Group of Eight Action Plan on Water for Africa. *The African Water Journal* is to be launched by ECA to disseminate information and knowledge and facilitate documentation and sharing of African experiences.

10. The following actions are envisaged in advancing the work of the water sub-cluster: establish in 2004 national task forces on water to prepare and implement plans for achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; negotiate the implementation of the "portfolio of projects" with the development cooperation partners, the Bretton Woods institutions and "UN Water"/Africa, which brings together all United Nations agencies working in Africa.

11. The transport sub-cluster continues to assist, in collaboration with the World Bank, in the implementation of the sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme within the context of NEPAD. Resource mobilization efforts for the Programme was successful in 2003 and the $4.4 million has been mobilized for the work programme of 2004. ECA, in collaboration with the regional economic communities and the African Union, is actively canvassing the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on air transport liberalization in Africa. In this regard, activities related to air transport liberalization are being pursued in many countries and assessment reports are being prepared for West Africa and Central Africa. Capacity-building in the handling of the infrastructure programmes of NEPAD is under way in the regional economic communities. The sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme is also identifying human resources needs of the regional economic communities and developing appropriate action plans.

12. Moreover, the International Civil Aviation Organization launched, in February 2004, a subregional study relating to an upper airspace control centre and the establishment of one flight safety oversight organization for the East African Community States of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. A similar study is planned to include Burundi and Rwanda.

13. The information and communication technology sub-cluster was convened in September 2003 to discuss the involvement of the United Nations agencies working in Africa relative to the implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan on

Infrastructure Development. It also organized and participated in several forums in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in Geneva in December 2003. ECA organized the African Preparatory Conference for the Summit with the support of the major United Nations agencies working in Africa. The establishment of a Digital Solidarity Fund to help information technology development in Africa was a major outcome of the Summit.

2. Governance, peace and security

14. This cluster is organized around five sub-clusters, namely: humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery (facilitated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)); rights-based approach to development (facilitated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)); peace and security (facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme); political governance (facilitated by UNDP) and economic and corporate governance (facilitated by ECA). UNDP is the overall convenor of the cluster.

15. The objective of the sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery is to develop integrated projects to respond to humanitarian crises and to promote post-conflict recovery for those countries with economies in transition and those that have emerged from conflict situations. The projects will be based on the findings of an inter-agency assessment team, which will undertake missions to such countries to determine the requirements, and, under the leadership of the respective Governments, to formulate projects to meet the gaps identified by the assessment team. In the area of humanitarian response, much effort has been devoted to promoting conditions conducive to the maintenance of peace and security by identifying ways to support and strengthen the capacity of regional and subregional mechanisms for early warning and conflict prevention; and ensuring an effective preparedness response capacity at all levels, through efficient contingency planning, to respond to and mitigate the impact of humanitarian crises.

16. In the post-conflict countries of Africa, the holistic "four Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) developed by UNHCR and its partners is being piloted to promote sustainable solutions for displaced populations and to ensure the protection of their rights. The approach is one which supports their systematic inclusion in the planning and programming of transition and recovery processes. The African Union Commission's Department of Peace and Security has confirmed its intention to take the lead in designing a comprehensive strategy and integrated framework for dealing with post-conflict situations in Africa, in cooperation with entities of the United Nations system.

17. The sub-clusters on political, economic and corporate governance are collaborating on a range of activities aimed at promoting democracy and good governance in the context of NEPAD. In collaboration with the NEPAD secretariat, UNDP, ECA and United Nations agencies have agreed to organize the next (sixth) African Governance Forum on the theme "NEPAD/Implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism". As part of the preparation for that event, a high-level stakeholders' workshop was organized from 28 to 30 July 2003 in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop targeted high-level representatives of Government, civil society, private sector and the media. Its objectives were to familiarize participants with the Mechanism in general, understand requirements at the country

level, clarify the role of technical assessments and the relationship among the various processes and agree on the next steps to be taken. Participants from 15 out of the 16 countries that had acceded to the Mechanism attended. They agreed on strengthening and expanding advocacy for the Mechanism at the national level and promote broader stakeholder involvement; reach consensus on guidelines for country Mechanism processes and initiate preparatory steps, and reach agreement on a time frame for national processes, including the completion of the programme of action. The workshop recommended that participating countries should (a) establish national structures, including national African Peer Review Mechanism focal points; and (b) link the national structures with the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat for interactive implementation and coordination.

18. As a follow-up to the high-level stakeholders' workshop, UNDP and OHCHR, in collaboration with the Africa Leadership Forum — an African non-governmental organization active in this area — organized a regional conference on the African Peer Review Mechanism in December 2003 in Kampala. The Conference brought together parliamentarians from participating countries. Its objectives were to provide a forum for facilitating African parliamentarians' understanding of the Mechanism in developing an adequate response mechanism for its implementation in their countries, as well as to identify legislative and administrative requirements at the national and subregional levels and create a broad-based network of African parliamentarians that will work together in advancing the Mechanism at the country and regional levels.

19. In November 2003, UNDP supported the secretariat of the Mechanism in the organization of a high-level technical workshop to further develop detailed criteria and indicators in the four areas of focus: corporate governance; democracy and political governance; social economic development and economic governance. The meeting brought together some 60 participants from partner and research institutions and leading individual African experts and produced a set of core indicators for each of the four areas of focus; a draft standard memorandum of understanding with participating countries; a draft standard memorandum of understanding with partner institutions and a strategic plan for providing support to countries and strengthening their capacities where needed.

20. ECA is planning to organize the fourth Africa Development Forum, on the theme of "Governance", in 2004. As part of the preparation for that forum, three subregional workshops covering the whole region of Africa were organized in December 2003 in Lusaka, Accra and Cairo. The workshops made specific subregional recommendations to the fourth Forum. Twenty-three national governance reports have been completed and are being used as inputs to the preparation of the Africa Governance Report.

3. Agriculture, trade and market access

21. Several agencies and programmes of the United Nations have been involved in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the centrepiece of the NEPAD food and agriculture plan. Organized under the umbrella of the Programme's Support Group, the agencies and programmes include mainly the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The group also includes the

African Development Bank. There is a complementary overlap between the membership of the Support Group, which is chaired by the NEPAD secretariat, and that of this cluster, which is convened by FAO.

22. FAO has provided assistance to the secretariat in the formulation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which was endorsed by African Ministers for Agriculture at a meeting held at FAO headquarters in Rome, in June 2002, and was approved by the Second Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Maputo from 10 to 12 July 2003. That summit also adopted a Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, which provided strong political support to the Programme. Major commitments from the Declaration include implementing, as a matter of urgency, the Programme and allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources towards the agricultural sector; preparing investment projects under the Programme for the mobilization of resources; and establishing regional food reserve systems, including food stocks, linked to Africa's own production. As a follow-up to the Maputo summit, FAO has been supporting the preparation of national medium-term programmes and the formulation of investment projects, to which it has committed $7 million in 49 countries (including $6 million from its own resources under the technical cooperation programme and close to $1 million from an Italian trust fund).

23. During the twenty-third Regional Conference for Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 1 to 5 March 2004, FAO reported on a number of activities which had been carried out during 2003 in the framework of the implementation of NEPAD. Those activities included: an initiative to review and update national agricultural, rural development and food security strategies and policies; integrating forestry, fisheries and livestock issues into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; implementation of fertilizer production and use in Africa and the establishment of regional food reserve systems, including food stocks. During 2003, FAO allocated approximately $1 million from its technical cooperation programme to fund three NEPAD activities, namely: advisory support to the NEPAD secretariat; incorporating forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors in the NEPAD-Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; and assistance for the establishment of a common market for basic food products.

24. WFP and the NEPAD secretariat have signed a memorandum of understanding identifying areas for cooperation, which include food security and livelihood protection, school feeding and basic education; nutrition; mother-and-child health; HIV/AIDS; vulnerability analysis; emergency needs assessment; contingency planning; emergency preparedness and response; and national and regional capacity-building.

25. WFP and the NEPAD secretariat are now working together to develop implementation plans in line with the memorandum of understanding. Pending finalization of the implementation plans, the Partnership and WFP are moving forward on school feeding and food-reserve systems, the two high-profile activities selected for early action. WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force agreed to launch a pilot programme called "Home-Grown School Feeding", which is designed to stimulate local production through the purchase of locally produced food. Smallholder farmers will be given the opportunity and initial assistance to supply food products to schools. WFP and NEPAD envisage cooperating with FAO and IFAD to ensure the success of the programme for which they selected nine potential

pilot countries. A joint concept paper has been prepared to help Governments to plan for implementation of the programme at the national level. WFP is also participating in a study on food crisis emergency response and preparedness.

26. The World Bank has provided support to the implementation the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme for Africa, which aims to double research and development on agriculture in Africa.

27. In 2003, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on *Economic Development in Africa* had as its theme trade performance and commodity dependence.[3] The report placed in perspective the reasons for Africa's poor trade performance and declining shares in world trade, along with the associated problems of commodity dependence and discussed factors influencing the continent's ability to diversify into more market-dynamic products. According to the report, the majority of African countries are hemmed into a trading structure that subjects them to secular terms-of-trade losses and volatile foreign exchange earnings. This position severely constrains effective macroeconomic management and stunts capital formation, hampering efforts to diversify into more productive activities and adding to the debt overhang. As a result, and despite years under structural adjustment programmes, much of sub-Saharan Africa has remained commodity-dependent.

28. The report called for a three-pronged response to easing the short-run burden of commodity dependence and facilitating longer-run structural changes, by combining measures to strengthen domestic institutional capacities with more balanced international trading arrangements and more generous and innovative international financing schemes. It also recommended that new markets be tapped, including through enhancing South-South trade, particularly in non-traditional commodities which have high-income elasticity and lower rates of protection, and increasing exports to emerging markets. Finally, it underscored the necessity for enhancing intra-African trade, which is one of the main objectives of NEPAD.

29. The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) is an integrated trade capacity-building response of the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization to assist in the effective and beneficial integration of African countries into the international trading system. The 16 African countries benefiting from the second phase of the programme are: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

30. Assistance was provided to JITAP countries in their preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003 and participation in the Doha work programme. In July 2003, a high-level workshop of the inter-institutional committees in preparation for the Conference was held in Geneva for capital-based senior trade officials, trade negotiators and other stakeholders, primarily members of the inter-institutional committees, from the 16 JITAP countries. Upon the request of JITAP countries, technical advisory services were provided to assist the inter-institutional committees in Kenya, Malawi, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia on issues on the Doha work programme, particularly in agriculture, non-agricultural market access and services, which also contributed to strengthening national preparations for the Cancún conference. Pledges to the JITAP Trust Fund to date

amount to $11.7 million, representing 92 per cent of the total programme budget of $12.7 million. The cash allocation as at 1 January 2004 amounts to approximately US$ 2.1 million against a budget estimate of $4.3 million for 2004.

31. The International Monetary Fund continues to advocate in various forums greater access to industrial country markets for Africa, including in particular the elimination of agricultural subsidies in industrial countries. It has called for a timely conclusion of the Doha Round, highlighting the importance of a successful outcome for the world economy and announced in Cancún a trade initiative that would tailor Fund support specifically to meet the needs of countries for which a multilateral agreement could generate temporary balance of payments pressures. Despite the absence of a clear positive result so far, the Fund continues to emphasize the benefits of trade liberalization, both unilateral and multilateral, including the elimination of agricultural subsidies. The Fund would provide financial support in the context of new or existing arrangements to members facing near-term negative impacts on their balance of payments from the round; it would also offer additional financial help where the actual impact of trade liberalization in a multilateral context turned out to be greater than anticipated.

32. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has launched the African Productive Capacity Initiative to be implemented within the framework of NEPAD. The Initiative will gradually integrate the current UNIDO integrated programmes in Africa, which would become the national pillars of the respective subregional Initiative, will help to identify the comparative advantages of regions, countries and products in Africa, using the global and local value chains approach, as well as enhance South-South cooperation. It is envisaged that the Initiative will become the industrial component of NEPAD, and a new cluster on productive capacity development, diversification of production and regional integration should be established.

33. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is currently implementing a NEPAD preliminary assistance project which is aimed at assisting African countries to identify and formulate a project document in the telecommunication and information and communication technology sector which would be used for sourcing funding to implement such projects. To this effect, ITU has allocated approximately $580,000 under its Telecom Surplus Programme, as an initial move to support African countries' efforts in implementing the NEPAD vision. Moreover, ITU and the European Union are jointly implementing a $995,000 project aimed at supporting the Economic Community of West African States countries to establish an integrated information and communication technology market in West Africa in order to foster the development of related networks.

4. Environment, population and urbanization

34. The objectives of the cluster are to address the challenges posed by population growth and movement; rapid and uncontrolled growth of human settlements; environmental degradation and pollution; and the lack of demographic statistics. These are consistent with the NEPAD goals. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the convenor.

35. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has collaborated with ECA in producing a technical paper on the linkages between population, environment and poverty reduction. The paper was presented to the Conference of Africa Finance Ministers.

36. More broadly, UNFPA has taken a series of measures to support technical and institutional building at the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat. For example, it has designated regional technical teams to support NEPAD-related activities in the social sector; designated country-level focal persons that would promote NEPAD awareness-raising and follow-up for related activities; promoted dialogue with the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat, in order to identify priority areas of UNFPA programme and technical support and established a UNFPA liaison office accredited to the African Union Commission and the regional institutions based in Addis Ababa, to specifically promote the implementation of the NEPAD programme. The Fund has committed itself to providing short-term technical support to the African Union Commission's institutional and technical capacity-building and has allocated, as an interim measure, more than $500,000 for that purpose.

37. Action plans were prepared and seven cities selected to start the NEPAD Cities Programme led by UN-Habitat. The Programme aims at achieving poverty reduction in urban centres and integration of regional growth centres. The seven cities are: Bamako, Douala, Durban, Lagos, Lusaka, Nairobi and Rabat. The Programme is being led by UN-Habitat with the collaboration of the regional economic communities (the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the East African Economic Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa and the Community of Sahelian and Saharan States), the national Governments of Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia; and the NEPAD secretariat. At the municipal level, civil society organizations are also actively involved in shaping the programmes of action and in identifying priorities. There is collaboration and consultation with other United Nations agencies who are operating in the same cities. Activities include multi-group consultations, awareness and information dissemination, priority identification and consensus-building. A consultative forum with the first seven NEPAD cities will be held in Lagos from 10 to 12 May 2004.

38. The first phase of the NEPAD Cities Programme, which involves profiling of the cities and identification of development priorities, was executed with $125,000 provided from the UN-Habitat Foundation. While efforts continue for mobilization of more support funds, Member States are called upon to support the programme through their national budget allocations and grants. A coordination mechanism has been proposed, through which, it is hoped, members of the cluster can work together and mobilize resources.

39. Under the leadership of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the secretariat of NEPAD, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD was prepared and finalized, adopted at the second special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Maputo, on 9 and 10 June 2003 and endorsed by the Assembly

of Heads of State of the African Union held in Maputo the following month. The Action Plan was finalized with the participation of more than 800 African experts who attended nine thematic workshops. A total of 200 concept proposals, including 68 priority projects, were identified, including a programme on capacity-building for the implementation of the Action Plan.

40. The World Bank is providing significant support to the NEPAD secretariat in the preparation and implementation of the NEPAD environmental action plan, providing financing in support of three main activities. The Bank will join the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in co-sponsoring and facilitating civil society participation in the development and implementation of the environmental action plan. The activity will provide civil society with access to support funds and information necessary for engaging in the NEPAD process, promote increased participation of civil society in the NEPAD process and raise awareness of the key decision makers of the policy issues related to environment and poverty.

41. To strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD secretariat to develop and implement the action plan, the World Bank is providing support for national and international experts on specific technical issues. These will be determined by NEPAD as the need arises, but likely areas include forestry, marine ecosystems and fisheries, climate change, toxic chemicals, and the other subsector themes that need to be strengthened in the action plan.

42. At the request of UNEP and the NEPAD secretariat, the World Bank financed a workshop on poverty and environment issues in Mali in January 2003 that drew heavily on recent analytical work completed by the Bank, including the Africa Region Environment Strategy; The Environment and the Millennium Development Goals; and Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management. It focused on the following: (a) considering different approaches to address complex linkages of the poverty-environment nexus; (b) agreeing on the most suitable approach to be adopted in the NEPAD framework; (c) developing ideas for priority regional and subregional interventions, including investment projects, technical assistance, capacity-building, policy reform and research; (d) identifying synergies with interventions proposed under other sub-themes of the action plan; and (e) finalizing an action plan to link poverty reduction and environmental management in Africa. In addition, the Bank is working closely with NEPAD on two of their priority investment areas: the Africa Stockpiles Programme, designed to clean up obsolete agro-chemicals throughout the region; and integrated tourism development in Southern Africa.

43. The Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is taking a lead role in the development of two projects under the NEPAD environment action plan aimed at building capacities for sustainable development of coastal and marine environment in Africa. The first project, entitled "Regional Ocean Observing and Forecasting System for Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Environment and Natural Disaster in Africa", is aimed at implementing the Global Ocean Observing Systems in the African Context. The second project, "Shoreline Protection through Integrated Coastal Area Management", is aimed at providing science-based strategies and policies for protecting coastal habitats from the impacts of coastal erosion climate change in North Western Africa. The Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission is providing technical and financial resources for the development of this project, which has been endorsed by the following participating countries (Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal).

44. At the same time, UNESCO has implemented three other main actions as part of the implementation of the action plan of the environmental initiative, particularly in respect of programme 6, Cross-border conservation or management of natural resources. First, in cooperation with UNEP, UNESCO organized in Paris, from 26 to 28 November 2003, the first intergovernmental meeting of the Great Apes Survival Project which adopted the "Global Great Apes Conservation Strategy". Second, the $6 million UNESCO/UNEP/GEF subregional project on "Building Scientific and Technical Capacity for Effective Management and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Dryland Biosphere Reserves in West Africa" was launched in January 2004. Third, in response to the cross-cutting issue on the assessment of early warning for natural disaster, UNESCO is undertaking a review of existing Earth Observation Data Centres for better sharing among African countries.

45. In December 2003, the International Civil Aviation Organization participated in the donor's conference on the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD organized by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. Expertise in the field of aviation environmental protection may be called upon in the execution of a number of projects relating to bird strike protection, noise around airports and aircraft engine emissions. In September 2003, the ICAO Western and Central African Office in Dakar had a meeting with a NEPAD project consultant of the African Development Bank, to discuss proposed medium and long-term plans and strategies for NEPAD implementation in the field of aviation.

46. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has facilitated the development of several priority projects, which aim to improve the livelihood of the poorest populations in Africa rural dry-land areas. It participated in the preparation and organization of the Partnership Conference on the NEPAD environment action plan in Algiers. As a follow-up to that conference, it formulated projects worth several millions of dollars, for which efforts are under way to mobilize resources.

5. Human resources development, employment and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

47. The objectives of this cluster are to advance the implementation of the NEPAD priorities, consistent with the commitments in the Millennium Development Goals, the resolution of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, and the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. There are three sub-clusters working in this area, namely: education, employment and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is the convenor of this cluster.

48. The sub-cluster on education is supporting rapid advance towards universal primary education for both boys and girls, helping to establish database on education to facilitate monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals on education and documentation of best practice and exploring the establishment of inventory of African professionals working abroad. The agencies in this sub-cluster have also agreed to collectively support and strengthen assessment of the institutional capacity of the regional economic communities in the human resources

area. The NEPAD secretariat/the African Union and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have agreed to convene in the near future a round-table workshop on brain drain and human resources development in Africa.

49. UNESCO has provided assistance in setting up a task team for the preparation of the NEPAD action plan on human resources development. In this regard, it organized in Paris from 10 to 12 December 2003, a meeting of experts on the theme "Female Participation in Education", which reviewed gender gaps in education in Africa and formulated a series of recommendations that could be reflected in the NEPAD action plan on human resources development. The outcomes were transmitted to the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission. UNESCO also set up another task team to serve as a consultative body to assist the African Union Commission and the NEPAD secretariat in revising and finalizing the Education Action Plan, seconded an expert to the secretariat of NEPAD from mid-September 2003 up to February 2004, and provided financial support to organize the meeting of the task team which was held in Johannesburg, Africa, on 22 and 23 March 2004.

50. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to implement its Africa capacity-building initiative through the Africa regional technical assistance centres, with the primary aim of strengthening domestic capacity in macroeconomic management and in the design and implementation of sustainable poverty reduction strategies. The second centre, the West Africa regional technical assistance centre, which was inaugurated in May 2003 and covers ten countries in West Africa, is now fully operational. Under a joint training programme with the African Capacity-Building Foundation, the East Africa regional technical assistance centre organized workshops on revenue administration, treasury reform, and banking supervision, while the West Africa regional technical assistance centre organized workshops on fiscal decentralization, monetary policy and government finance statistics, money-laundering and bank balance sheet analysis.

51. The employment sub-cluster is working on the finalization of the draft Social Policy Framework for the African Union/NEPAD, the draft Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, Finalization of Draft Declaration and Plan of Action; and support to the African Union/NEPAD to mainstream employment in its activities and halting and reversing the brain drain that is rapidly diminishing the availability of human capacity in key development areas. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the convenor of this sub-cluster and is taking the lead on these various activities.

52. The sub-cluster on HIV/AIDS is facilitating the implementation and monitoring of the HIV/AIDS-related commitments of the Millennium Development Goals, the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and the Abuja Declaration at the country, regional and continental levels. A Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office has been established in Pretoria by United Nations agencies in Southern Africa working on food security, HIV/AIDS and the humanitarian issue. This is an important example of inter-agency collaborative efforts on intersecting subregional issues.

53. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has continued to be a strong advocate of NEPAD within the United Nations system at both regional and country levels. UNAIDS is supporting NEPAD in the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into all of its sectors. A consultation is currently under way to develop a

strategy that will enable each sector to integrate HIV/AIDS in its core activities and make HIV/AIDS an overarching issue in NEPAD. UNAIDS has strengthened its office in Addis Ababa by appointing a senior level staff member and recruiting staff to be responsible for ongoing follow-up on NEPAD and other regional bodies. In addition, UNAIDS has focal points on NEPAD at the headquarters and regional levels. UNAIDS is supporting NEPAD to identify best practices for use as strategic information for policy with regard to the development of an advocacy policy to achieve the recent 3x5 initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO), under which anti-retroviral drugs are to be made available to 3 million HIV/AIDS patients by 2005, and in monitoring the implementation of the Abuja Declaration.

54. To address the various governance challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, in February 2003, the Secretary-General established a high-level Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance under the chairmanship of the ECA Executive Secretary. The Commission, which has its secretariat at ECA, will complement the policy analytical work and advocacy activities of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as other ongoing initiatives. Since its establishment, the secretariat has consulted extensively with a wide range of experts to arrive at a research framework that will examine the impact of the pandemic on key areas of governance and economic development and advocate for measures to reverse the epidemic. The first meeting of the Commission was held in Addis Ababa in September 2003 and the second in Maputo in March 2004. UNAIDS is providing support to the high-level Commission.

55. A decision has been made to establish a fourth sub-cluster on health, with WHO as the convenor. Other agencies that are part of the sub-cluster include ECA, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank. The sub-cluster is to work in support of the combined African Union Social Affairs/NEPAD collaborative arrangement and within the framework of African Union health decisions and the NEPAD health strategy. The action areas include popularization and implementation of the African Union/NEPAD health strategy; support to health desks in the regional economic communities; availing expertise of the United Nations to better support achievement of the health strategy; raising the profile and perceived value of investing in health; development and implementation of strategies to redress the brain drain in the health sector; and intersectoral action and inter-agency strategy harmonization to support implementation of the health strategy.

56. The WHO Regional Office for Africa made an important contribution to the development of the NEPAD health strategy. During the past year, WHO collaborated with NEPAD in developing project briefs. These cover broad areas, such as enabling stewardship and harnessing multisectoral efforts; securing health systems; scaling up disease control; scaling up programmes for management of pregnancy and childbirth; empowerment of people to improve their health; and mobilization of resources. These project briefs are now with NEPAD for finalization and will be used for resource mobilization at a "donors" conference to be organized in the near future.

57. The WHO Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the NEPAD secretariat, is supporting the integration of the NEPAD health strategy into the national health strategies and development plans of the member countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC). Discussions have

been held between the Regional Office and the Organization of Coordination for the Control of Endemic Diseases in Central Africa on the preparation for a meeting of Experts from the CEMAC member countries scheduled for 26 to 30 April 2004. The Regional Office (represented by the WHO country representative/Cameroon) participated in the preparatory meeting that was held in Yaoundé, on 4 and 5 March 2004, and will provide the venue and technical support for the meeting of experts to be held in April 2004.

58. UNFPA participated in African Union expert group meetings and provided technical inputs, including for Africa's Social Policy Framework; and the Draft Action Plan on the Family in Africa. In collaboration with the African Centre for Gender and Development, the Fund organized a regional workshop on gender and HIV/AIDS.

59. The various agencies in this cluster have also agreed to harmonize their policies and programming on HIV/AIDS, to include monitoring countries' performance on HIV/AIDS, and to support the effort concerning the WHO initiated dialogue with regional economic communities on establishing health and social affairs desks at the communities, for which agreement has been reached on the terms of reference for the health desks at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Economic Community of West African States.

6. Science and technology

60. A new cluster on science and technology was recently established to support the work of NEPAD in this important area. Although the newly established cluster is yet to be convened under UNESCO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), it is already working closely with the NEPAD secretariat and other regional organizations on policy and other implementation issues relating to NEPAD. Such involvement includes: (a) the organization of the preparatory meeting held in Nairobi in October 2003 and the First NEPAD Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2003, for which UNESCO provided financial and technical support; (b) assistance in the development of terms of reference and identification of experts using its extensive knowledge of the African scientific community; (c) follow-up actions of the Action Plan, particularly on the African Green Revolution Initiative (Strategic Agricultural Commodities), the NEPAD Centres of Excellence Initiative (Africa Biosciences Facility Consultative Meeting, held from 28 to 31 January 2004). The cluster has also been actively involved in the work on the African brain drain, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the NEPAD secretariat. Looking ahead, the cluster envisages: (a) participating in follow-up activities of the NEPAD plan of action, as approved by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology; and (b) linking the NEPAD plan of action on science and technology with the science and technology cluster established under the regional consultative meeting in support of NEPAD.

B. Resource mobilization

61. It is generally acknowledged that African Governments have the primary responsibility for mobilizing resources from domestic and external sources for the implementation of NEPAD. The United Nations system can play an important

catalytic and supportive role in that process. Reflecting their mandates, the activities of the entities of the United Nations system range across a continuum that includes those that give loans, those that provide grant resources in cash or kind, including technical assistance, and those that undertake advocacy work for increased resource flows to Africa. In practice though, some entities undertake all these activities. The financial commitments by several agencies in support of various priority sectors of NEPAD have been highlighted in the preceding sections of the present report.

62. During the past year, a few entities of the United Nations system undertook activities to highlight the financing needs of NEPAD, including strengthening aid effectiveness in general; or took steps to mobilize resources for specific programmes of NEPAD. Two examples in the first category are the round table discussion on Capital flows to Africa: potentials for financing NEPAD, organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and ECA work on mutual accountability between donors and recipients of official development assistance. Examples in the latter category include UNEP support for the partners conference on the action plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and the additional resources approved by UNESCO for NEPAD activities. These examples are illustrative, rather than an exhaustive list of such efforts and are based on inputs from the agencies.

63. The round table organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, which was held on 15 October 2003, reflected on the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Capital Flows to Africa, entitled "A Ten-Year Strategy for Increasing Capital Flows to Africa", an independent study published during the first half of 2003. The round table endorsed such proposed policy measures as expanding trade liberalization measures for Africa by the developed countries, enhancing tax policy and other incentives for firms based in the developed countries to invest in Africa, increasing financing for local costs for African projects and raising the repayment period of loans by export credit agencies of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries to Africa, carefully targeting development assistance to Africa at developing Africa's human capital and providing a range of assistance for strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.

64. ECA is working with the OECD secretariat in developing a framework for mutual accountability and coherence, which will form a basis for a new relationship between African countries and their bilateral development partners. This effort will potentially yield dividends in the form of increased aid effectiveness.

65. A Partnership Conference on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD was held in Algiers, on 15 and 16 December 2003, to consider the priority projects of the environment action plan of NEPAD. As a result, a multi-million dollar project on capacity-building is being finalized with the support of GEF and other bilateral partners, including Belgium, Denmark, Norway and the European Commission. It will be submitted to the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to be held in Tripoli on 29 and 30 June 2004. The project to be implemented by UNEP in partnership with the secretariat of NEPAD, the African regional economic communities and the African Development Bank will aim at preparing five subregional environmental NEPAD action plans; finalizing a programmatic approach for the implementation of the Action Plan; promoting pilot and demonstration projects on synergies at national level among global environmental agreements focusing on the Rio conventions with a view to

contributing to the alleviation of poverty; and establishing an African global technical support programme on capacity-building.

66. The UNESCO General Conference, at its thirty-second session in September and October 2003, approved the allocation of an extra amount of $1 million to support activities for the NEPAD process in order to help to further strengthen the organization's support to the NEPAD process.

C. Challenges and constraints

67. In spite of the progress made, the United Nations system faces a number of challenges and constraints in supporting NEPAD. The first is funding. Many clusters have indicated that the individual entities need more resources to meet the claims on support to NEPAD. Increased financial commitment by the United Nations system for NEPAD programmes will much depend on whether the agencies receive additional resources. A closely related problem is that, while the agencies are currently working together in many areas, they are constrained by a lack of common funding for new programmes, which thus potentially limits the scope and flexibility in undertaking additional joint activities.

68. At the same time, much remains to be done to enhance the coherence and coordination of the United Nations system support of NEPAD, especially in terms of building synergies across thematic clusters. Enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration holds much promise in mainstreaming a number of cross-cutting issues, such as HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights.

69. The African Union Commission, regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat are expected to play important roles in implementing NEPAD. Assisting in strengthening their institutional and technical capacity has become a major priority of various entities of the United Nations system. There is need for greater inter-agency collaboration on the matter, rather than a sector-driven approach to supporting these institutions.

70. Overall, strengthening the regional consultations meeting is of crucial importance in ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication in the work of the United Nations system, especially at a time when various agencies have decentralized their operations to the regional and subregional levels in Africa. But improved operational coherence and coordination should not be viewed as a bureaucratic exercise. It is a practical response to better supporting NEPAD to achieve tangible results in all its priority areas.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

71. **As shown in the present report, the support of the United Nations system for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) covers a wide variety of activities, including providing technical assistance for institutional development, capacity-building and project development, as well as mobilization of resources and advocacy. Progress on all these areas would be essential as the implementation of NEPAD moves forward.**

72. **These activities confirm that the United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for NEPAD. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the continued support of the United Nations system to the Partnership:**

(a) **The United Nations system should use the existing coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels to strengthen policy coherence in support of NEPAD;**

(b) **The entities should further deepen their collaboration to achieve operational coherence of their various programmes in support of NEPAD;**

(c) **Additional resources should be made available to the system to better support NEPAD.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16).

[2] E/AC.51/2003/6.

[3] *Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.D.34).